

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

RELEASE FOR MORNING PAPERS OF JUNE 26, 1928.

Ships are coming down from Alaska regularly now with cargoes of 2,000 reindeer carcasses to supply the increasing demand for this new meat. One dealer in Seattle sells reindeer meat exclusively and consumes three or four animals a day. The meat may now be bought almost anywhere in the northwest and occasionally finds its way even into eastern bills of fare.

The Department of the Interior which has nurtured this industry reports that about two-thirds of the half million of the reindeer in Alaska are the property of the native Eskimos. The reindeer industry is already one of the greatest in Alaska, and it is rapidly increasing.

A large part of the reindeer meat that is being shipped out of Alaska is owned by an incorporated company whose headquarters are at Nome. This company owns more than 50,000 head of reindeer. It operates in the Seward Peninsula district and has recently reorganized with capital of \$3,000,000 in order to increase its exportation of reindeer meat. It has constructed several cold-storage plants on the coast of Seward Peninsula to which the deer are driven when in prime condition, and there slaughtered and placed in storage. Three cold-storage barges are also operated along the coast.

Each season the United States Bureau of Education's vessel, the "Boxer", brings to Seattle about 500 slaughtered reindeer. Reindeer meat is also transported on the commercial steamers "Sierra", a freighter of 2,000 ton capacity, and the "Victoria", with cold-storage space for 2,000 carcasses, usually making three voyages to Seattle during the open season of navigation. Another ship, the "Alameda", is placed in service when necessity arises.

In the northern portions of Alaska, nature provides the best possible cold-storage facilities, as the ground is frozen solid to great depths, and even in summer the ice is within a few inches of the surface. (P. N. 24573